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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1   1. (currently amended) A method for facilitating secure handoff in a network
2   having at least first and second wireless base stations and at least one wireless mobile
3   terminal, the method comprising the steps of:
4   receiving a request from said at least one wireless mobile terminal for a handoff
5   from said first base station to said second base station; and
6   transferring security information that was originally supplied by a central security
7   node and was not used by said first base station from said first base station to said second
8   base station in response to said request;
9   wherein at least a portion of said security information is used to validate said at
10   least one mobile wireless terminal to said second base station.

1   2. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 further wherein said security
2   information includes a set including at least a random number, an authenticator derivable
3   by said wireless mobile terminal but not said first or second base stations, and a key.

1   3. (canceled)

1   4. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 further wherein said security
2   information transferred from said first base station to said second base station in response
3   to said request is less than all of the security information received by said first base
4   station.

1   5. (original) The invention as defined in claim 4 wherein all of the security
2   information received by said first base station was received from a wireless mobile
3   terminal validation system.

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1   6. (original) The invention as defined in claim 4 wherein all of the security
2   information received by said first base station was received from a third base station.

1   7. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 wherein said transferring security
2   information from said first base station to said second base station in response to said
3   request is performed only when said first base station knows said second base station
4   prior to said receiving step.

1   8. (original) The invention as defined in claim 1 further comprising the step of
2   initiating an encrypted link between said second base station and said wireless terminal
3   when said first base station and said wireless terminal were communicating using an
4   encrypted link, said second base station using said security information transferred from
5   said first base station to said second base station in initiating said encrypted link between
6   said second base station and said wireless terminal.

9. (canceled)

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1   10. (currently amended) A method for performing handoffs in a network for
2   providing wireless communication service having at least first and second wireless base
3   stations and a least one wireless terminal, the method comprising the steps of:
4   transmitting a request, from said wireless terminal for a handoff between said first
5   base station and said second base station;
6   receiving a response to said request at said wireless terminal, when said second
7   base station knows said first base station prior to receiving said request, said response
8   indicating that said second base station can engage in expedited handoffs with said first
9   base station; and
10   connecting said wireless terminal for user traffic to said second base station;
11   wherein said expedited handoff employs information about said wireless terminal
12   transferred from said first base station to said second base station.

1   11. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is
2   security information.

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1   12. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is
2   security information received from a security center.

1   13. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is
2   security information received from a base station other than said first or second base
3   stations.

1   14. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is
2   security information and includes at least one from the set consisting of: (i) a password,
3   (ii) a challenge-response pair, and (iii) a challenge-response cipher key tuple.

1   15. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said information is
2   security information that is received over a network for inter base station communication.

1   16. (original) The invention as defined in claim 10 wherein said connecting step
2   further includes the step of
3   initiating an encrypted link between said second base station and said wireless
4   terminal when said first base station and said wireless terminal were communicating
5   using an encrypted link prior to said handoff request, said second base station using
6   security information transferred from said first base station to said second base station as
7   part of said response in initiating said encrypted link between said second base station
8   and said wireless terminal.

1   17. (previously presented) A method for performing handoffs in a network having
2   at least first and second wireless base stations and a least one wireless terminal, the
3   method comprising the steps of:
4   transmitting a request, from said wireless terminal for a handoff between said first
5   base station to said second base station;
6   when said second base station does not know said first base station prior to
7   receiving said request, receiving at said wireless terminal an indication that it must
8   connect to said second base station without benefit of security information supplied from
9   said first base station.

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